(b) if so, the present positions of the said project-proposal and the likelihood of starting the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Project officers of NHAI

2994. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed the NHAI to put projects on fast track;

(b) whether it is a fact that deliberate delays are being enquired by various project officers;

(c) whether any such project officers have been identified;

(d) whether NHAI would upgrade the level of calibre of its project officers; and

(e) the steps proposed to select talent and experienced officers to build over highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Apart from regular officers, experienced and talented officers from various Central Government/State Government Organizations are selected on deputation basis for implementation of NHAI Projects.

Funds allocated for National Highways in Bihar

2995. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the condition of National Highways in Bihar is very bad;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the funds allocated for National Highways passing through Bihar during the last three years, road-wise and work-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Majority of National Highways in Bihar declared during Ninth Five Year Plan and Tenth Five Year Plan suffered from inherent deficiencies such as inadequate lane width, pavement thickness, poor geometrics, weak and narrow bridges and culverts, missing links etc. The removal of these deficiences and bringing these roads to NH standard requires huge investment which is carried out in a phased manner depending upon availability of funds and *inter-se* priority of works. However, these roads are maintained in traffic-worthy condition within available resources.

(c) Funds are allocated State-wise and not separately for different National Highways. The details of funds allocated for State of Bihar for carrying out original work and maintenance and repair works of National Highways during the last three years is given hereunder:

(Amount in Rs. Crore)

Year	NH (O)-Original works	M&R-Maintenance and Repair works
2003-2004	83.00	29.46
2004-2005	79.51	46.28
2005-2006	78.99	47.66

Funds allocated for NHs in MP

2996. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money allotted for construction of new National Highways in Madhya Pradesh during the last two years; and

(b) the amount of money allotted under the Central Road Fund to Madhya Pradesh in the past two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No separate allocation is made for new National Highways. Funds allocated for National